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Federal Reserve Board of Governors member Lisa Cook listens during an open meeting of the Board of Governors, June 25, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Supreme Court lets Lisa Cook remain as a Federal Reserve governor for now

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed Lisa Cook to remain as a Federal Reserve governor for now, declining to act on the Trump administration's effort to immediately remove her from the central bank.

In a brief unsigned order, the high court said it would hear arguments in January over Republican President Donald Trump's effort to force Cook off the Fed board.

The court will consider whether to block a lower-court ruling in Cook's favor while her challenge to her firing by Trump continues.

The high-court order was a rare instance of Trump not quickly getting everything he wants from the justices in an emergency appeal.

Cook will be able to take part in the remaining two Fed meetings in 2025, including the next meeting of its interest rate-setting committee in late October.

Separately, the justices are hearing arguments in December in a separate but related legal fight over Trump's actions to fire members of the boards that oversee other independent federal agencies. The case concerns whether Trump can fire those officials at will.

But a second issue in the case could bear directly on Cook's fate: whether federal judges have the authority to prevent the firings or instead may only order back pay for officials who were wrongly dismissed.

Trump had sought to oust Cook before the September meeting of the Fed's interest rate-setting committee.

But a judge ruled that the firing was illegal, and a divided appeals court rejected the Trumps administration's emergency appeal.

A day after the meeting concluded with a one-quarter of a percentage point reduction in a key interest rate, the administration turned to the Supreme Court in a new emergency appeal.

The White House campaign to unseat Cook marks an unprecedented bid to reshape the Fed board, which was designed to be largely independent from day-to-day politics. No president has fired a sitting Fed governor in the Fed's 112-year history.

"President Trump lawfully removed Lisa Cook for cause from the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. We look forward to ultimate victory after presenting our oral arguments before the Supreme Court in January," White House spokesman Kush Desai said.❑

Government shutdown takes hold with mass layoffs looming and no end in sight

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and STEPHEN GROVES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government was thrown into a shutdown Wednesday with no easy endgame in sight, as Democrats held firm to their demands to salvage health care subsidies that President Donald Trump and Republican in Congress have dismissed as something to possibly discuss later.

The White House threatened mass layoffs of federal workers, rather than simply the normal furloughs, in a matter of days, seizing the chance to slash government. Blame was being cast on all sides. No new talks were scheduled after the president failed this week to secure a deal with congressional leaders.

"Let's be honest, if this thing drags on," warned Vice President JD Vance during a visit to the White House briefing room, "we are going to have to lay people off."

Roughly 750,000 federal workers were expected to be furloughed, and some fired, by Trump's Republican administration. Many offices will be shuttered, perhaps permanently, as the president promises to zero in on programs Democrats like. Trump's deportation agenda is likely to run full speed ahead, while education, environmental and other services sputter. The economic fallout could ripple across the nation.

Democrats believe their health care campaign is what House Leader Hakeem Jeffries called a "moral" issue, but cracks are emerging within the party. A Senate vote on the GOP plan to fund the government without the health subsidies failed, but it drew some Democratic support.

"I certainly pray they will come to their senses," House Speaker Mike Johnson said, flanked by GOP leaders at the Capitol.

This is the third time Trump has presided over a federal funding lapse and the first since his return to the White House this year. His record underscores the polarizing divide over budget priorities in a political climate that rewards hard-line positions rather than more traditional compromises.

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., the Senate GOP whip, left, and Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., right, arrive for a news conference with top Republicans on the government shutdown, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025.

Associated Press

Plenty of blame, but no exit strategy

The Democrats picked this fight, which was unusual for the party that prefers to keep government running, but their voters are eager to challenge the president's second-term agenda. Democrats are demanding funding for health care subsidies that are expiring for millions of people under the Affordable Care Act, causing the insurance premiums to spike nationwide.

Republicans have have encouraged Trump to steer clear of any talks. At the White House meeting, he gave the congressional leaders "Trump 2028" caps. Afterward, the president posted a cartoonish fake video mocking the Democratic leadership that was widely viewed as unserious and racist.

"President Trump's behavior has become more erratic and unhinged," Democratic leaders Jeffries and Sen. Chuck Schumer said in a joint statement. "Instead of negotiating a bipartisan agreement in good faith, he is obsessively posting crazed deepfake videos."

Asked about the depiction of Jeffries with a mustache and a sombrero, Vance dismissed it as "funny."

What neither side has devised is an easy off-ramp to prevent what could become a protracted closure. The ramifications are certain to spread beyond the political arena, upending the lives of Americans who rely on the government for benefit payments, work contracts and the many services being thrown into turmoil.

Trump's Office of Management and Budget, headed by Russ Vought, directed agencies to execute plans not just for furloughs, which are typical during a federal funding lapse, but mass firings of federal workers. Vought told House Republicans during a private conference call Wednesday of layoffs coming in the next couple of days, according to a person granted anonymity to discus it.

Economic fallout expected to ripple nationwide

An economic jolt could be felt in a matter of days. The government is expected Friday to produce its monthly jobs report, which may or may not be delivered.

Wall Street veered toward losses before the opening bell Wednesday as the shutdown went into effect just after midnight, but stocks hit more record highs later in the day.

Across the government, stoppages were getting underway.

What's staying open and shutting down

The Medicare and Medicaid health care programs are expected to continue, though staffing shortages could mean delays for some services. The Pentagon would still function. And most employees will stay on the job at the Department of Homeland Security. But Trump has warned that the administration could focus on programs that are important to Democrats, "cutting vast numbers of people out, cutting things that they like, cutting programs that they like."

As agencies sort out which workers are essential, or not, Smithsonian museums are expected to stay open at least until Monday. A group of former national park superintendents urged the administration to close the parks to visitors, arguing that poorly staffed parks are a danger to the public and put resources at risk.

Health care costs expected to soar

Ahead of Wednesday's start of the fiscal year, House Republicans had approved a temporary funding bill, over opposition from Democrats, to keep government running into mid-November while broader budget talks continue.

But that bill has failed repeatedly in the Senate, including Wednesday, on a 55-45 vote. It needs 60 votes to advance, which requires cooperation in a chamber where the GOP has a 53-47 majority. A Democratic bill also failed.

Divisions within the Democrats are apparent, as three senators again crossed over to join Republicans. One Republican opposed the GOP plan.

During the roll call, an widening group of senators engaged in an intense conversation, including GOP Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota, who has been talking with colleagues about the idea of a one-year extension of the expiring health care subsidies.

"It's just one thought, and there are other ideas that are out there," Rounds said afterward.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, who has said Republicans are happy to discuss the health care issue but not as part of talks to keep the government open is working to peel off more Democrats to his side.

The standoff is a political test for Schumer, who has drawn scorn from a restive base of left-flank voters pushing the party to hold firm in its demands for health care funding.

Johnson sent lawmakers home nearly two weeks ago but said they would be back next week.

Trump, during his meeting with the congressional leaders, expressed surprise at the scope of the rising costs of health care, but Democrats left with no path toward talks.

During Trump's first term, the nation endured its longest-ever shutdown, 35 days, over his demands for funds Congress refused to provide to build his promised U.S.-Mexico border wall.❑

Maine clinics also hit by cuts that targeted Planned Parenthood plan to halt primary care

By PATRICK WHITTLE and GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A network of medical clinics that serves low-income residents in Maine said Wednesday it is shutting down its primary care operations because of Trump administration cuts to abortion providers.

President Donald Trump's policy and tax bill, known as the " big beautiful bill," blocked Medicaid money from Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider. The parameters in the bill also stopped funding from reaching Maine Family Planning, a much smaller provider that also delivers other medical services in the mostly rural state.

Vanessa Shields-Haas, a nurse practitioner, walks from the lobby toward the examination rooms at the Maine Family Planning healthcare facility, July 15, 2025, in Thomaston, Maine.

Associated Press

Maine Family Planning has informed its nearly 1,000 primary care patients that it will no longer be providing primary care service starting Oct. 31, the network said. The loss of Medicaid funding took about $2 million in reimbursements from the network, and it is no longer able to sustain primary care, it said.

The network "will continue seeing patients who need family planning care, regardless of insurance status, for as long as we are able," Maine Family Planning said in a statement. The group also provides birth control, sexually transmitted disease testing, cancer screenings and routine OBGYN visits, it said.

"We were caught in this net because we provide abortion care as part of a full range of sexual and reproductive health care at 18 sites. We are proud to provide that care," said George Hill, president and chief executive officer of Maine Family Planning.

Of the 17,535 visits made to Maine Family Planning's 18 health centers and mobile medical unit in 2024, 13% were for primary care services, Hill said.

Maine Family Planning has fought the halting of Medicaid dollars in federal court. But it suffered a setback in August when a federal judge ruled against restoring funding during the network's ongoing lawsuit against the Trump administration. The network appealed to a higher court but has yet to receive a response. Hill said the legal fight will continue.

Maine Family Planning is one of three health organizations across the country that the federal government says is barred from receiving Medicaid reimbursements until the end of September 2026 under a provision in President Donald Trump's tax and spending law. It targets groups that provide abortion and receive more than $800,000 a year in Medicaid reimbursements. Medicaid already did not cover abortion.❑

New York rapper who joined Trump at campaign rally sentenced to 5 years for attempted murder

By PHILIP MARCELO and BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City rapper who joined President Donald Trump during a campaign rally last year has been sentenced to five years behind bars after he admitted he used earnings from his music career to fuel gang violence in Brooklyn.

Sheff G, whose legal name is Michael Williams, also must serve five years of supervised release once he's freed under the terms of the sentence imposed Wednesday.

He and the judge agreed on the sentence when the rapper pleaded guilty earlier this year to attempted murder and conspiracy. Prosecutors wanted a 20-year prison term.

"This defendant had talent and opportunity, but chose to use them to fuel violence instead of building a better future," Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said after the sentencing. The 27-year-old rapper, whose songs and videos have millions of YouTube views and Spotify streams, was among those arrested in connection with a long-term investigation into gang-related shootings in Brooklyn. The allegations of violence against Sheff G had already been made public when he appeared with Trump onstage in May 2024. More than 30 purported members of the 8 Trey Crips and the street gang's affiliate, the 9 Ways gang, have been indicted. Twenty-three have pleaded guilty to various charges while seven cases are still pending.

Rapper Sheff G, also known as Michael Williams, right, joins then Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during a campaign rally in the Bronx borough of New York on May. 23, 2024.

Associated Press

Among those charged was Tegan Chambers, a rapper known as Sleepy Hallow who also appeared on stage with Trump and Sheff G during the May 23, 2024, rally in the Bronx. Chambers was sentenced last week to a year in jail following his guilty plea to a conspiracy count.

A spokesman for Trump's campaign was asked at the time about whether the campaign knew about the charges and whether it was the former president who sought the rappers' support or the other way around.

"As Sheff G said: 'They always whisper your accomplishments and shout your failures,'" campaign spokesman Steven Cheung responded.

Prosecutors have said Sheff G showered money and jewelry on gang members as they battled rivals in Brooklyn.

They say the rapper acted as a getaway driver on at least one occasion, chauffeuring three co-defendants to and from a 2021 shooting that targeted a rival but instead hit two bystanders. Sheff G even treated gang members to a lavish dinner at a Manhattan steakhouse to celebrate a 2020 shooting that killed a purported rival gang member and injured five others, according to prosecutors.❑

Denmark warns that Russia is waging a hybrid war on Europe, as EU leaders hold security talks

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Europe is in the middle of a hybrid war waged by Russia and the continent must arm itself, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen warned on Wednesday as she hosted a summit of European Union leaders in Copenhagen.

"I hope that everybody recognizes now that there is a hybrid war and one day it's Poland, the other day it's Denmark, and next week it will probably be somewhere else that we see sabotage or we see drones flying," Frederiksen told reporters.

The summit comes after a spate of troubling drone incidents at Danish airports and military bases over the last week. Ahead of the meeting, a special radar system was set up at Copenhagen airport to help keep watch. Unidentified drones forced the closure of the airfield a week ago, causing major disruptions.

France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the U.K. also sent aircraft, ships and air defense systems to Denmark ahead of the talks. Ukraine's armed forces have dispatched a mission to the Nordic country for joint exercises, sharing its expertise on combating Russian drones.

While the Danish authorities have not identified those believed to be responsible, Frederiksen said, "There is only one country that is willing to threaten us and it is Russia and therefore we need a very strong answer back."

"I want us to rearm. I want us to buy more capabilities. I want us to innovate more, for example on drones," she said. "When I look at Europe today, I think we are in the most difficult and dangerous situation since the end of the Second World War."

Hungary's Prime Minister, Viktor Orban, left, and Croatia's Prime Minister, Andrej Plenkovicthe shake hands at the Danish parliament at Christiansborg Castle in Copenhagen as Denmark is hosting an informal summit for the EUs heads of state and government, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025 .
Associated Press

Russia was the focus of Wednesday's summit, where discussions centered on how to prepare Europe to fend off Russian aggression by 2030, especially as the United States turns its focus on security concerns in Asia and elsewhere.

Ukraine was also high on the agenda, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the EU leaders by videolink.

Leaders and intelligence services believe that Russia could mount an assault elsewhere in Europe in 3 to 5 years, and that President Vladimir Putin is intent on testing NATO as doubts swirl about U.S. President Donald Trump's commitment to the organization.

On Sept. 10, when several Russian drones breached Poland's airspace, NATO aircraft were scrambled to intercept and shoot down some of the devices. It was the first direct encounter between NATO and Moscow since Russia launched its war on Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

The incident jolted leaders across Europe, raising questions about how prepared the alliance is against Russia. Days later, NATO jets escorted three Russian warplanes out of Estonia's airspace.

French President Emmanuel Macron said Wednesday that an oil tanker off the French coast had committed "very serious wrongdoings" and linked it to Russia's shadow fleet, which is avoiding Western sanctions over Moscow's war in Ukraine.

The tanker was sailing off the coast of Denmark last week and was cited by European naval experts as possibly being involved in drone flights over the Nordic country.

After Wednesday's meeting began, officials in Germany said that authorities there are also investigating claims that unidentified drones may have spied on a power plant, a hospital and a shipyard in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein last week.

Turning to Ukraine, the EU leaders discussed ways to maintain military and financial support as the conflict-ravaged country's funds, weapons and ammunition slowly dry up.

A new proposal to use frozen Russian assets to help Ukraine was considered, as well as its prospects of joining the EU. ❑

Thousands march in Serbia in persistent resistance to autocratic leader Vucic

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Thousands joined protest marches in several Serbian towns on Wednesday reflecting persistent resistance to autocratic President Aleksandar Vucic's rule despite a government crackdown.

Crowds gathered to mark 11 months since a concrete canopy collapsed in a northern Serbian city that killed 16 people and triggered a major anti-government movement.

Protesters believe that the crash at the renovated train station in Novi Sad resulted from graft-fueled negligence in construction projects. The building's renovation was part of a wider railway overhaul with Chinese companies.

Holding up lights on their phones, the protesters in Belgrade walked in silence to honor the victims who included children. Huge crowds also gathered in Novi Sad, braving heavy rain falling in the city.

No incidents were reported, unlike at previous several demonstrations when riot police used tear gas against the protesters.

University students - a main force behind the rallies - are demanding justice in the Novi Sad tragedy but also early parliamentary elections that they hope would oust Vucic's populist government.

"There is a way to change things in the country," one of the students told the crowd in Belgrade in a brief speech. "The first step is for corrupt officials to step away and for the people to realize that our destiny lies in the hands of each of us."

Monthslong protests have posed the most serious challenge for Vucic in years. ❑

People march during a protest in Belgrade, Serbia, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, eleven months after the deadly train station tragedy that sparked mass demonstrations against corruption.
Associated Press

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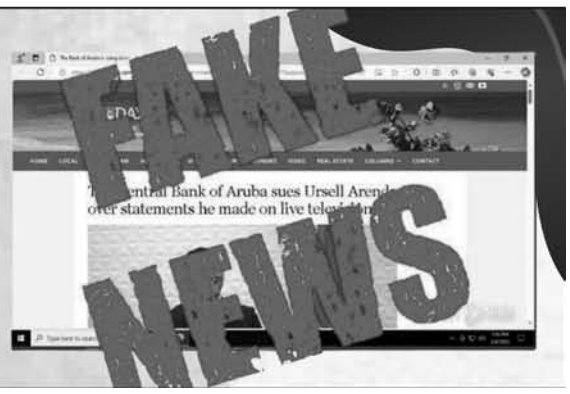


A view of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station, in Enerhodar, Zaporizhzhia region, in territory under Russian military control, southeastern Ukraine, on May 1, 2022.

Associated Press

Zelenskyy and U.N. atomic agency head warn of heightened risk at huge Ukrainian nuclear plant

By ILLIA NOVIKOV
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's president and the U.N. nuclear agency head are sounding the alarm about increased safety risks at the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in southern Ukraine, which lost its external power supply more than a week ago as the war raged around it.

Emergency diesel generators are providing power for crucial cooling systems for the facility's six shutdown reactors and spent fuel, and there is no immediate danger to Europe's biggest nuclear plant, according to International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi.

But "it is clearly not a sustainable situation in terms of nuclear safety," he said.

The backup generators have never needed to run for so long, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"The generators and the plant were not designed for this," Zelenskyy said late Tuesday, describing the situation as "critical."

Zaporizhzhia is one of the 10 biggest nuclear plants in the world, and its fate amid the fighting has caused fears of a potential nuclear catastrophe. Russian forces seized it days after the full-scale invasion of neighboring Ukraine began on Feb. 24, 2022.

The tension around the nuclear plant's safety has added to broader concerns about the course of the war, which shows no signs of ending after a U.S.-led effort this year to stop the fighting came to nothing.

European leaders, spooked by recent violations of their airspace by unidentified drones and Russian warplanes, gathered Wednesday in Denmark for two summits centered on security, defense and the war in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy blamed Russian artillery for cutting the power line to the Zaporizhzhia plant, but Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said it was Ukrainian shelling.

Peskov told reporters Wednesday that it was "stupid to accuse the Russian side of shelling the plant it controls."

The Vienna-based IAEA has been walking a tightrope in the war, eager to maintain access to nuclear facilities and issuing warnings about the dangers without angering either side. Ukraine has four nuclear plants, though Zaporizhzhia is the only one in Russian hands.

The plant shut down its last reactor in the fall of 2022, meaning the nuclear fuel is relatively cool, but the danger remains significant, according to Dmytro Gumeniuk, head of the safety analysis department at Ukraine's State Scientific and Technical Center for Nuclear and Radiation Safety.❑

Swiss glaciers shrank 3% this year, the fourth-biggest retreat on record, experts say

Matthias Huss, of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and glacier monitoring group GLAMOS, and Monica Ursina Jaeger prepare a camera at the Rhone Glacier near Goms, Switzerland, on June 10, 2025

Associated Press

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Switzerland's glaciers have faced "enormous" melting this year with a 3% drop in total volume the fourth-largest annual drop on record due to the effects of global warming, top Swiss glaciologists reported on Wednesday.

The shrinkage this year means that ice mass in Switzerland home to the most glaciers in Europe has declined by one-quarter over the last decade, the Swiss glacier monitoring group GLAMOS and the Swiss Academy of Sciences said in their new report.

"Glacial melting in Switzerland was once again enormous in 2025," the scientists said.

"A winter with low snow depth combined with heat waves in June and August led to a loss of 3% of the glacier volume."

Switzerland is home to nearly 1,400 glaciers, the most of any country in Europe, and the ice mass and its gradual melting have implications for hydropower, tourism, farming and water resources in many European countries.

More than 1,000 small glaciers in Switzerland have already disappeared, the experts said.

The teams reported that a winter with little snow was followed by heat waves in June the second-warmest June on record which left the snow reserves depleted by early July. Ice masses began to melt earlier than ever, they said.

"Glaciers are clearly retreating because of anthropogenic global warming," said Matthias Huss, the head of GLAMOS, referring to climate change caused by human activity.❑

Best spots to view the sunset

ORANJESTAD —What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset? Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest point easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!*

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple hue.

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.

Editor's note: This spot may be my personal favorite, if you couldn't already tell...❑

Bushiri Karting brings racing like no other!

(Oranjestad)—If you are looking for a unique and exciting venue for your next corporate event, team building activities or a birthday celebration, Bushiri Karting Speedway offers high-speed action, customizable catering and unforgettable experiences for all ages.

Whether you are racing your colleagues or celebrating a special occasion, we bring adrenaline and atmosphere like no other!
We have our Refreshment and Snack Bar to keep everybody fueled with drinks and tasty bites. Bushiri Karting Speedway has 6 TV screens and 1 Big Projector so you can enjoy all your favorite sports events.

So if you're ever up for some fun adrenaline, stop by the Bushiri Karting! Opening hours are from Tue-Sat 10am -10pm and Sunday 1pm-9pm. We are situated at Bushiri 25. You can email us at: bushirikarting@gmail.com or call at (+297) 583-5278.❑

ACF invites you to the next Full Moon Hike

Come experience the wilderness of Aruba under the glow of the full moon with Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF) and witness the island's natural beauty from a different perspective.

This hike will take avid hikers and nature enthusiasts for a hike through Cunucu Arikok, up Sero Boonchi and Sero Arikok.

- Date: Tuesday, 7 October 2025
- Time: 6:00PM – 8:00PM
- Distance: 4 km / 2.5 mi
- Take note: Bring a small flashlight with you

Register here: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/8R4dSDM4Zk. Limited spots available.

Let's appreciate the beauty of our nature in a respectful and mindful way.❑

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?
The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor
Size
It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?
There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:
"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:
"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them. "

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?
Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years
Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit
When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule.❑

ARUBA TODAY

Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge".❑

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.❑

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.

Taste the natural flavors of Aruba

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mango's hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year- round.

Konkomber chikito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Konkomber chikito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year- round.

Kenepa

Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif

There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu

Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind

A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year- round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture–more so than snap beans–and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna

In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups.❑

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

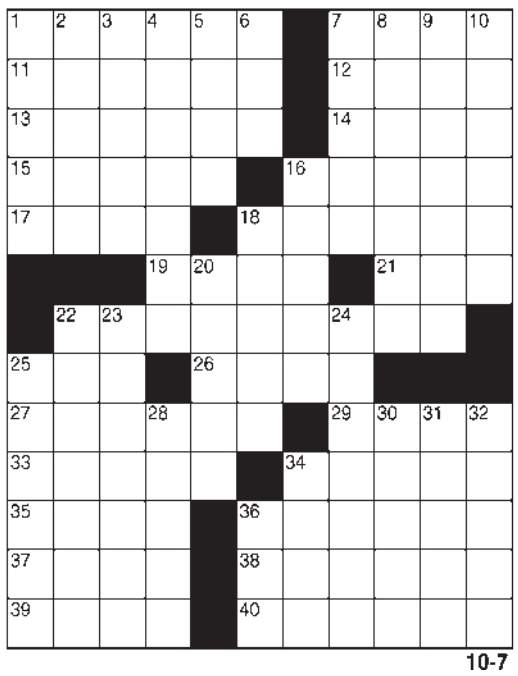
ACROSS

1 Twisty course
7 Coop group
11 Asian temple
12 Balm ingredient
13 Prolific inventor
14 Andean capital
15 "Okla-homa!" aunt
16 Implied
17 Ruby and Sandra
18 Secant's reciprocal
19 Qom's country
21 Poet Hughes
22 Virtual world
25 Jazz horn
26 Goose egg
27 Copy fixer
29 Choir member
33 Pan of fiction
34 Humorous
35 Makeshift swing
36 Full grown
37 Pressing need
38 No longer in bed
39 Field cries
40 New

DOWN

1 Keanu Reeves film
2 Soup server
3 Nimble
4 Wigs out
5 Dump output
6 Chess piece
7 NFL pioneer George
8 Calls forth
9 Oscar hopeful
10 On the sofa
16 Copier need
18 Spelunker
20 Barber's need
22 Dessert wine
23 Preferred seating, for some
24 Stiffly awkward
25 Bacteria-ridden
28 Prom crowd
30 Entertain
31 Temp-tress of myth
32 Perfume
34 Main-tenance
36 Ruin

A	R	E	N	A	■	P	I	E	C	E
C	O	D	A	S	■	A	R	D	O	R
C	A	M	P	S	■	G	A	M	M	A
E	D	U	■	I	D	A	■	U	P	S
S	I	N	■	G	I	N	■	N	E	E
S	E	D	O	N	A	■	A	D	D	S
■	■	H	A	S	T	E	N	S	■	■
G	O	I	T	■	O	N	S	P	E	C
A	L	L	■	A	M	I	■	E	R	R
L	I	L	■	M	S	G	■	N	N	E
O	V	A	T	E	■	M	O	S	E	S
S	I	R	E	N	■	A	R	E	S	T
H	A	Y	E	S	■	S	O	R	T	S



10-7

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

W J Y J P H E K L X W D L X C J I T

C J D Y J R V X A B D V J A R E G U J P .

— C X W E R , " X A ' R A B J F P J D A

L E K L U X W , G B D P C X J Q P I V W "

Cryptoquote: IF THE FULL MOON LOVES YOU, WHY WORRY ABOUT THE STARS? — AFRICAN PROVERB

Cruise ship Schedule: Oct. 01 - 12 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
WED	01	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	05	*FREEWINDS - Dept.*	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	07	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
WED	08	GRAND PRINCESS	08.00	18.00	B	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	09	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	18.00	C	1
SUN	12	*FREEWINDS - Dept.*	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

		9			3		5	
		8		7	5			2
		2	8			6		
1			7					
			5		1			
		5	2	3				4
2					8	9	1	
	3						7	
				9	7		4	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 10/2

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Answer to previous puzzle

5	3	7	6	2	4	8	1	9
6	8	9	7	1	5	2	4	3
4	1	2	9	3	8	7	5	6
8	9	3	1	6	7	5	2	4
2	7	4	8	5	9	6	3	1
1	5	6	2	4	3	9	7	8
3	6	5	4	8	2	1	9	7
9	4	8	5	7	1	3	6	2
7	2	1	3	9	6	4	8	5

Difficulty: ★★★ 10/1

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AOL's dial up internet takes its last bow, marking the end of an era

An AOL logo is seen in the company's office in Hamburg, Germany, Jan. 12, 2010.

Associated Press

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's official: AOL's dial-up internet has taken its last bow.

AOL previously confirmed it would be pulling the plug on Tuesday (Sept. 30) writing in a brief update on its support site last month that it "routinely evaluates" its offerings and had decided to discontinue dial-up, as well as associated software "optimized for older operating systems," from its plans. Dial-up is now no longer advertised on AOL's website. As of Wednesday, former company help pages like "connect to the internet with AOL Dialer" appeared unavailable and nostalgic social media users took to the internet to say their final goodbyes.

AOL, formerly America Online, introduced many households to the World Wide Web for the first time when its dial-up service launched decades ago, rising to prominence particularly in the 90s and early 2000s. The creaky door to the internet was characterized by a once-ubiquitous series of beeps and buzzes heard over the phone line used to connect your computer online along with frustrations of being kicked off the web if anyone else at home needed the landline for another call, and an endless bombardment of CDs mailed out by AOL to advertise free trials.❑

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San Nicolas
Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Trupial: Tel.583 8560
San Nicolas:
Aloe: Tel.584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	**100**
Oranjestad	**527 3140**
Noord	**527 3200**
Sta. Cruz	**527 2900**
San Nicolas	**584 5000**
Police Tipline	**11141**
Ambulancia	**911**
Fire Dept.	**115**
Red Cross	**582 2219**

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	**587 5900**
Prof. Taxi	**588 0035**
Taxi D.T.S.	**587 2300**
Taxi Serv. Aruba	**583 3232**
A1 Taxi Serv.	**280 2828**

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	**524 2424**
American Airlines	**582 2700**
Avianca	**588 0059**
Jet Blue	**588 2244**
Surinam	**582 7896**

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Walmart plans to remove artificial colors and other food additives from store brands by 2027

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and JONEL ALECCIA
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart said Wednesday that it plans to remove synthetic food dyes and 30 other ingredients, including some preservatives, artificial sweeteners and fat substitutes, from its store brands sold in the United States by January 2027.

The move announced by the the nation's largest retailer amounts to an acknowledgment that American consumers and the U.S. government under President Donald Trump are paying attention to what goes into packaged foods. Walmart said its goal would affect about 1,000 products, including salty snacks, baked goods, power drinks, salad dressings and frosting.

Several of the ingredients on Walmart's removal list, however, already are banned, not widely used or have not been used in the U.S. food supply for decades.

Others were included despite no known problems or have been targeted by the Trump administration for review and possible elimination as an approved food additive, according to food safety experts.

Still, the action represents a "sweeping declaration and a considerable response to consumer demand and sentiment" for fewer additives in food, said Brian Ronholm, director of food policy for the advocacy arm of Consumer Reports.

"This is a good and well-thought-out list and represents a very positive step, especially considering the reach their private label brands have in U.S. households," Ronholm said in a statement.

Great Value brand fruit snacks are displayed at a Walmart Neighborhood Market, Friday, Sept. 26, 2025, in Bentonville, Ark

Associated Press

Walmart's Great Value brand most affected

Walmart said the 14-month reformulation plan primarily would involve its largest private-label food brand, Great Value.

Customers also can expect changes in Walmart's Marketside and Freshness Guaranteed lines of prepared foods, and to some extent in its premium label Bettergoods products, the company said.

In recent months, major food companies such as Kraft Heinz, Nestle and Conagra Brands have pledged to eliminate petroleum-based synthetic dyes in coming years. Walmart took its news a step further by identifying other kinds of food additives in its phase-out timeline.

The chemicals and compounds the discount retailer intends to eliminate encompasses the breadth of food manufacturing. For example, Walmart's list includes potassium nitrate, potassium nitrite and potassium bisulfite, which are used as preservatives in processed meats, as well as the artificial sweeteners advantame and neotame.

Many of the items on Walmart's list have raised concerns about potential health effects "for a long time," said Thomas Galligan, a scientist who focuses on food additives for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, an advocacy group. Those include synthetic dyes, titanium dioxide, azodicarbonamide, propylparaben, potassium bromate and phthalates, a chemical used to make plastic flexible.

Health advocates have argued that phthalates in plastic wrap, plastic packaging and plastic bottles can end up in food and beverages.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has limited but not ended their use in items that come into contact with food.

Food scientists say some of Walmart's choices surprising

But some of the 11 artificial food dyes detailed by Walmart were already banned, proposed to be banned or haven't been used for years, including Red No. 4, Red No. 3 , Citrus Red No. 2 and Orange B. The retailer also listed simplesse, a fat substitute that was phased out of the U.S. food market in 2023, and synthetic trans fatty acids, or trans fats, which the FDA effectively phased out the same year by determining that partially hydrogenated oils no longer were recognized as safe.❑

Apple TV+ extends its deal to be the exclusive streaming home for 'Peanuts' until 2030

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Snoopy, Charlie Brown and the "Peanuts" gang are staying put.

Apple TV+ is announcing a five-year extension as the exclusive streaming home for all things "Peanuts," The Associated Press has learned. The new deal will run until 2030.

This image released by Apple shows key art for the animated classic "A Charlie Brown Christmas" holiday special.

Associated Press

The new extension building on a partnership between WildBrain, Peanuts Worldwide and Lee Mendelson Film Productions includes the classic "Peanuts" library, as well as plans for more new original series and specials.

Apple TV+ obtained the exclusive rights to the "Peanuts" catalog in 2020, including the widely beloved "A Charlie Brown Christmas," a holiday staple.

Continuing a holiday tradition, Apple TV+ will offer non-subscribers the chance to stream longtime favorites for free, including "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" (Oct. 18 and Oct. 19) "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" (Nov. 15 and Nov. 16) and "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (Dec. 13 and Dec. 14).

"These beloved characters and stories hold a timeless significance, resonating with people of all ages across the globe.

And we are delighted that the iconic holiday specials will be available for everyone to experience, continuing this time-honored, comforting tradition," Tara Sorensen, head of children's programming at Apple TV+, said in a statement.

An ever-increasing "Peanuts" library is available on the streamer's platform, including "Snoopy in Space" shorts, The Snoopy Show" "Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home, Franklin," "Snoopy Presents: One-of-a-Kind Marcie" and "Camp Snoopy." The first "Peanuts" musical in 35 years "Snoopy Presents: A Summer Musical," which premiered this summer is also available.❑

NFL sees a surge in blocked kicks, impacting games significantly

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

Kickers and punters have never been more dangerous in the NFL, with long field goals becoming routine and booming punts launched with regularity.

None of that matters, though, if the kicks are getting blocked.

And that's been happening at a staggering pace in the first month of the season. There have been 16 blocked kicks on punts, field goals and extra points for the second most through four weeks since at least 1991. The only season with more came in 2014, when there were 19 blocks in the first four weeks.

It's not just the number of blocks, but also the impact they have had on games. That was very evident this past week.

It started with the Philadelphia Eagles, who opened their game at Tampa Bay by getting a punt block by Cameron Latu that Sydney Brown returned 35 yards for a touchdown.

That came after the Eagles got a win in Week 3 against the Los Angeles Rams when Jordan Davis blocked a potential game-winning field goal and returned it 61 yards for a touchdown. Philadelphia became the fourth team to score on a blocked field goal or punt return in consecutive games since 2000, with the Eagles also doing in 2014, San Francisco in 2008 and Baltimore in 2002.

Philadelphia also blocked a field goal earlier in the fourth quarter against the Rams to become the first team since at least 1978 to have a blocked punt or field goal on three straight possessions, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Dallas Cowboys safety Juanyeh Thomas (2) blocks a extra point attempt by Green Bay Packers place kicker Brandon McManus, right, in the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

Chicago sealed a win this week with a block of its own. Josh Blackwell blocked Daniel Carlson's 54-yard attempt to preserve a 25-24 win over the Las Vegas Raiders.

That was the third block in the final minute of regulation on a field goal that could tie or give a team the lead in the past two weeks, with Cleveland also getting one in a Week 3 win over Green Bay. That's tied for the most such blocks in the final minute of regulation in any entire season since 2011, when there were four.

The week's most thrilling game also had a consequential block. Dallas blocked an extra point by Green Bay and returned it for a 2-point score in the first half of a game that ended up in a 40-40 tie the second-highest scoring tie ever. That was just the 10th blocked extra point returned for a score since the NFL changed the rules in 2015 to allow them. Before that, a blocked extra point recovered by the defense was a dead ball. The last time it had happened was by Houston against the Chargers in last season's playoffs.

Rattler remains winless

Spencer Rattler is still seeking his first NFL win 10 starts into his career with the New Orleans Saints.

Rattler became the ninth quarterback since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger to lose his first 10 career starts, but that doesn't necessarily means all is lost, as two of the other players on that list ended up in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Troy Aikman began his career in Dallas 0-11 before leading the Cowboys to three Super Bowl titles. Warren Moon lost his first 10 starts with the Houston Oilers following a successful career in the CFL. He went on to make nine Pro Bowls, win Offensive Player of the Year in 1990 and throw for 49,325 yards in a career that ended in Canton.

The quarterback with the most consecutive losing starts to begin a career is DeShone Kizer, who went 0-15 for the winless Cleveland Browns as a rookie in 2017 and never started again.

Two other players lost their first 10 starts without ever winning, with Zach Mettenberger doing it for Tennessee and Brodie Croyle for Kansas City.

The other players on the list are Jack Trudeau (12 straight losses), Stan Gelbaugh (11) and Derek Carr (10).

Tennessee rookie Cam Ward has started his career with four straight losses. He became the fifth quarterback picked No. 1 in the common draft era to start and lose in each of the first four weeks of his rookie season, joining Trevor Lawrence (2021), Peyton Manning (1998), Drew Bledsoe (1993) and Troy Aikman (1989).

Dual-threat backs

Bijan Robinson and Ashton Jeanty showed off their dual-threat ability on Sunday.

Robinson had a career-high 181 yards from scrimmage and a touchdown in Atlanta's win over Washington, while Jeanty gained 155 yards and scored three TDs for Las Vegas against Chicago.

Robinson had 106 yards receiving and has topped the century mark twice in the first four games, joining Alvin Kamara (2018), Thurman Thomas (1991), Paul Palmer (1988) and Paul Hofer (1980) as the only running backs to do that.❑

NASCAR fines Carson Hocevar $50,000 for endangering safety officials at Kansas Speedway

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — NASCAR fined Carson Hocevar $50,000 on Wednesday for putting safety officials in danger during the Cup Series race at Kansas Speedway.

The penalty was listed under a behavioral violation and was for Hocevar revving and spinning his tires while safety workers attended to his car after he spun the No. 77 Chevrolet.

The Spire Motorsports driver was involved in an incident late in Sunday's race when he spun on the backstretch. He had flat tires and was unable to get the car rolling again.

"Four flats, can't f(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk) roll," he radioed the team. "It's just frustrating."

Hocevar had a shot at a top-10 finish before he was involved in some late race incidents. He was part of the fifth caution of the race when he ran into the slower car of J.J. Yeley, and was also part of the sixth caution when Hocevar spun in an 11-car crash on a restart.

With just a handful of laps to go, contact from another driver sent Hocevar into his final spin as the race went to overtime.❑

Ryan Blaney (12) noses ahead of Carson Hocevar (77) during a NASCAR Cup Series race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, in Loudon, N.H.

Associated Press

Napheesa Collier slammed the WNBA's leadership. Here's why that matters

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

Napheesa Collier is more than just a WNBA star who is critical of her league and its leadership.

The Minnesota Lynx player is a vice president of the players union, which means she will be sitting across from WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert at the negotiating table ahead of an Oct. 31 deadline to reach a new collective bargaining agreement.

If that doesn't cause enough tension, Collier is also a co-founder of Unrivaled, a three-on-three women's basketball league that plays in the winter and features WNBA stars. That could give her additional leverage to try to press the WNBA as talks unfold.Here's a look at some of the implications of Collier's headline-grabbing comments.

Minnesota Lynx forward Napheesa Collier celebrates after making a 3-point basket during the second half of Game 2 in the first round of the WNBA basketball playoffs against the Golden State Valkyries, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, in San Jose, Calif.
Associated Press

Player negotiations with the WNBA are already tense.

Could they get worse?

As an executive on the negotiating team, Collier will have a loud voice in the room when in-person negotiations between the two sides continue. She was at the face-to-face meeting at All-Star weekend in July that included dozens of players. There have been meetings since, but players haven't really been able to attend because they've still been in season.

"We're working hard to make sure that we are putting ourselves in the best position to negotiate for what we think is fair," Collier said. "We have a lot of meetings internally to make sure we're on the same page and we're all lockstep for this. Just making sure we're super aligned."

There also is the trust factor. During her comments at an end-of-season media session this week, Collier revealed conversations that were to remain private that she had had with the commissioner in February. That could undermine trust that is often needed to carry out negotiations.

For all the faults that Collier cited in her prepared comments, Engelbert has delivered on many of her promises since coming into the league in 2019.

She will have added six expansion teams by 2030 and secured a major new media rights deal for the next decade that will bring in more than $2.2 billion. Engelbert also had the league pay for a full charter flight program this season that the players hope will be added to the new CBA to address concerns about issues ranging from safety to travel time.

The commissioner has said all along that the league is hoping for a transformational agreement that includes significantly increased player salaries and benefits. There's little reason for Collier's remarks to detract from that goal.

How are other players responding to Collier's comments?

Players across the league backed Collier either on social media or at Game 5 of the WNBA semifinals series between Las Vegas and Indiana that the Aces won in overtime.

WNBA MVP A'ja Wilson said she was appreciative of Collier and the union for standing up for the players. "I'm grateful to have those type of people to be able to continue to speak up for us," Wilson said after the Aces advanced to the WNBA Finals. "I'm going to ride with Phee always. Obviously, she's a business girlie and she has her own stuff going on, but moving forward, we've gotta continue to stand on business as we talk about this CBA negotiation."

Other players, including Rookie of the Year Paige Bueckers, backed Collier on social media, calling her "Queen Phee" in an Instagram Story while the song "Pink Pony Club" plays in the background. ❑